

SP 1/3/09
Amendments to the Specification:

page 3, line 15

Please replace the paragraph 22 with the following amended paragraph.

A preferred embodiment is written using JAVA, C, and the C++ language and utilizes object oriented programming methodology. Object oriented programming (OOP) has become increasingly used to develop complex applications. As OOP moves toward the mainstream of software design and development, various software solutions require adaptation to make use of the benefits of OOP. A need exists for these principles of OOP to be applied to a messaging interface of an electronic messaging system such that a set of OOP classes and objects for the messaging interface can be provided. A simulation engine in accordance with a preferred embodiment is based on a Microsoft Visual Basic component developed to help design and test feedback in relation to a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet. These spreadsheet models are what simulate actual business functions and become a task that will be performed by a student. The Simulation Engine accepts simulation inputs and calculates various outputs and notifies the system of the status of the simulation at a given time in order to obtain appropriate feedback.